ments for provisions of infrastructure to increase production and export of fruits. These include setting up State Directorates of Horticulture, Nurseries and Quality Plant-Material-production centres, provision of adequate inputs including fertilizer and pesticides and schemes for rejuvenation of old orchards and setting up nutritional gardens.

The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) and National Horticulture Board (NHB) have also taken up schemes for improving post-harvest management infrastructure so that export quality fruits are encouraged. These include schemes for cooling pre-cooling facilities, specialised transport, refrigerated containers and packaging.

1506. [*Transferred to the 12the December, 1991*]

सूखा प्रभावित राज्य

1507. **श्री शिवप्रसाद चनपुरिया:** क्या कृषि मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) उन राज्यों के नाम क्या हैं जहां सूखे के कारण फसलों को व्यापक रूप से नुकसान हुआ है;

(ख) सूखे से उत्पन्न संकट का मुकाबला करने के लिए सरकार द्वारा किस प्रक्रिया का अनुसरण किया जा रहा है;

(ग) मध्य प्रदेश में उन जिलों के नाम क्या हैं जो सूखे से बुरी तरह से प्रभावित हुए हैं;

(घ) सूखे से पीड़ित ग्रामीण लोगों की क्रय शक्ति बढ़ाने के लिए सरकार ने क्या उपाय किये हैं;

(ङ) क्या यह सच है कि एक केन्द्रीय अध्ययन दल ने सभी सूखा प्रभावित राज्यों का दौरा किया है और यदि हां, तो इस संबंध में ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(च) सहायता की मांग किन-किन राज्य सरकारों ने की है?

कृषि मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री मुल्लापल्ली रामचंद्रन): (क) से (घ) राज्यों से जानकारी एकत्र की जा रही है और सभा पटल पर रख दी जाएगी।

(ङ) जी नहीं।

(च) गुजरात, महाराष्ट्र, कर्नाटक आंध्र प्रदेश और हिमाचल प्रदेश राज्यों ने सूखा राहत के लिए अतिरिक्त केन्द्रीय सहायता मांगी है।

Delay in delivery of dak

1508. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:
SHRI N. E. BALARAM:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news item which appeared in Delhi edition of "Jan Satta" of May 19, 1991 to the effect that for years postal articles are not distributed and are being thrown on streets as *Raddi* etc., in Sangam Vihar, Delhi;

(b) if so, the action Government have taken in the matter; and

(c) what steps Government have taken for proper and timely distribution of dak to the residents of the area?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) The Government is aware of the news item which appeared in Delhi edition of "Jan Satta" dated 19-6-91. There was no such news item in Delhi edition of "Jan Satta' dated 19-5-91.

(b) and (c) The enquiries conducted revealed irregularities in the delivery of mails. The postmen found responsible for irregularities have been suitably punished and transferred. The Postmaster incharge of the Post Office and the Public Relations Inspector have also been transferred.

Two additional Postmen have been deployed for smooth management of delivery work in the area.

I.D.D. Calls between India and Gulf Countries

1509. SHRI G. G. SWELL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of I.D.D. calls made between Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and other Gulf countries and India during the current year ending October, 1991;

(b) the foreign exchange earned through these calls; and

(c) whether Government are losing crores of rupees every year owing to a telephones racket in this circuit involving Indian telephone operators and high-ups in the Telephone Department?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) and (b) Sir, normally it takes around 3 to 4 months time for receiving the call data from foreign telecom administrations. The information required can be furnished by February, 1992.

(c) Some allegations to this effect have come to the notice of the Department of Telecom. Vigilance monitoring has been stepped up.

Formation of Telephone Advisory Committee for Assam

1510. SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that TAC has been constituted for Assam; and

(b) if so, what is the composition of the same?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) Yes, Sir. The TAC was formed. However, it now stands suspended.

(b) Composition of the TAC is given below:

1. Representative of the State Government.
2. Administrator, Municipal Corporation.
3. President, Journalist Association.
4. President, Medical Association.
5. President, Bar Council/Lawyers Association.
6. Vice Chancellor of one of the prominent University.
7. Representative from the professional organisation of Engineers etc.

8 & 9. Public/Social Workers.

10. to 12. MLAs (nominated by Speaker of the concerned State Assembly).

Loss due to theft of telephone cables

1511. SHRI CHUFRAN AZAMI:
SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited has suffered huge losses due to unchecked theft of telephone cables;

(b) if so, what is the quantum of loss suffered during 1989, 1990 and 1991 till date as a result thereof;

(c) whether Government have made any inquiry into the cable thefts to identify the rackets involved; and